

We Claim:

1. An apparatus for pressing shirts, comprising:

a flexible inflatable body having a bottom section and a top section;

a bottom part having a fan communicating with said inflatable body for inflating said inflatable body, said inflatable body fastened to said bottom part at said bottom section;

a load-bearing structure disposed within said inflatable body and connected in a vertically displaceable manner to said bottom part;

a top part being disposed above said bottom part, said inflatable body fastened to said top part at said top section, said load-bearing structure connecting said top part to said bottom part; and

said load-bearing structure being movably disposed to assume:

an extended position in which said load-bearing structure is extended out of said bottom part when the apparatus is in operation; and

a retracted position in which said load-bearing structure is retracted into said bottom part when the apparatus is not in operation.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said load-bearing structure lowers into said bottom part.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said load-bearing structure lowers substantially entirely into said bottom part.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a connecting device for transmitting at least one of tensile forces and compressive forces, said connecting device connecting said load-bearing structure to said inflatable body between regions in which said inflatable body is fastened to said bottom part and to said top part, said connecting device being displaceably connected along said load-bearing structure.

5. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein:

said inflatable body has an inside; and

said connecting device is pulling strips fastened on said inside and delimit inflation of said inflatable body.

6. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said connecting device is inflatable air cushions disposed in said inflatable body and forcing said inflatable body outward at given locations.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a button-strip clamp for fixing one of the button strip of a shirt and a buttonhole strip of the shirt, said button-strip clamp being fastened in a vertically displaceable manner on said bottom part.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said button-strip clamp and said load-bearing structure are coupled to one another with respect to vertical displacement.

9. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said button-strip clamp and said load-bearing structure are vertical displaceably coupled to one another.

10. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said button-strip clamp has a top connected to said top part.

11. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:

said button-strip clamp has a rear side;

said inflatable body with said load-bearing structure pushes upward in an inflated state of said inflatable body and butts against said rear side of said button-strip clamp in the pushed upward state;

said button-strip clamp has clamping surfaces against which one of the button strip or the buttonhole strip are to be pressed for fixing the button strip or the buttonhole strip, said clamping surfaces define a plane and have lateral borders; and

said rear side of said button-strip clamp is located in a vicinity of said plane of said clamping surfaces at least at said lateral borders.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein:

said clamping surfaces have outer borders;

said rear side of said button-strip clamp has borders; and

said borders of said rear side of said button-strip clamp are connected to said outer borders of said clamping surfaces and enclose an acute angle with said outer borders of said clamping surfaces.

13. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said load-bearing structure has a plurality of supporting rods connected to one another and disposed substantially parallel to one another;

only one of said supporting rods is mounted axially in said bottom part and is secured against tilting; and

a remainder of said supporting rods are guided axially in said bottom part and are not secured against tilting.